

In regards to the continuing efforts of the FCC and likeminded agencies/parties to speed the digital transition of American broadcasting, I submit the following comments.

As both a longtime subscriber to both cable and satellite television, as well as a recent purchaser of digital/HDTV equipment, I find that we are in dire need of support for alternative carrier companies. Competition breeds advancement both of the technology and the services offered the American public, and is crucial in this formative time in the evolution of our airwaves into a digital 21st century medium. One specific example of a forward thinking corporate enterprise that is upping the ante for all involved is the satellite carrier Voom. They are interested first and foremost in advancing and expanding the adoption and utility of HDTV in the American home. I ask that the FCC take serious account of pending transactions that look to disable and/or dismantle this entity's place and influence in the American broadcast sphere. They have need of their transmission satellite(s)/transponder(s) and all other support facilities and have stated the immediate desire to grow their digital offerings to the public. Their competition has repeatedly stepped back from aggressive advancement of HD and were they to acquire such assets, I believe the American public and all set to benefit from the digital transition would suffer. Shrinking the number of players in the satellite HD broadcasting realm will only encourage complacency or reactive retraction of expansion efforts in the remaining players, justified by the judgement that this is a sign of HD's failure as a medium. Voom is advancing the agenda of digital transition to the highest level; they are taking risks alone that should be beholden to all players in the arena of satellite service providers, and they are adopting a fervent group of supporters such as myself, one of many interested in the shining prospects of HD/digital broadcasting. I ask your consideration of these matters and thank you for your time.